REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 5 is objected to because of certain informalities. Claim 5 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's direction to exclude reference to ARINC 628. The scope of claim 5 is intended to now include both the ARINC 628 connector and similar type connectors. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Bovio et al. reference ("Bovio") (U.S. Pat. No. 6,046,571). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Initially, it will be noted that independent claim 1 has been amended to more positively reflect that the connector module comprises "a housing adapted to be disposed adjacent a seat of the mobile platform." These limitations are not shown or suggested by Bovio. Bovio is directed to a portable computer docking unit 100 with an array of communication port connectors or jacks 131 including an RJ-45 connector 142, a USB connector 144, a power supply connector 146, a parallel printer port connector

148, a serial port connector 150, a VGA video port connector 149, a mouse port connector 152, and a keyboard port connector 154. There is absolutely no discussion or suggestion in Bovio as to a connector module comprising a network port and a power port wherein the housing of the connector module can be supported from, or even disposed adjacent to, a seat in a mobile platform. Nor does Bovio discuss or suggest providing network connectivity of the portable electronic device wherein the network is on-board the mobile platform. In fact, Bovio makes no disclosure or even suggestion of the docking station from a seat, let alone from a seat on-board a mobile platform. For these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Bovio is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Williams, Jr. reference ("Williams") (U.S. Pat. No. 6,038,426) in view of the Francis reference ("Francis") (U.S. Pat. No. 6,315,618). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 8 and 10 have been amended to more positively reflect that the housing of the connector module is either "adjacent" (claim 1) or "coupled to" (claims 8 and 10) a seat in a mobile platform or aircraft. Further, each of these independent claims provides for networking and power ports for providing network connectivity of the portable electronic device and providing power to the portable electronic device. It will also be noted that there is no discussion or suggestion in either Williams or Francis as to providing a connector module comprising a housing, a power port and a network port

wherein the network port is connected to a network located on-board the aircraft, as specified in the preambles of each of Claims 1, 8 and 10.

Williams is directed to a seat electronics unit ("SEU") designed for quick and easy replacement. The SEU provides control over telephony and in-flight entertainment associated with a group of passenger seats. The SEU has circuitry used to control the propagation of information, such as telephony and in-flight entertainment into input/output devices of a group of passenger seats. The SEU is connected to a passenger control unit ("PCU") circuitry preferably implemented in an arm rest of a passenger seat to at least provide information to circuitry on-board the aircraft to perform various functions (e.g., activating or de-activating the reading light, calling a flight attendant, audio volume control, etc.) and provide audio to the passenger. "[T]he SEU 250 is coupled to a number of peripherals including displays 220_1-220_n passenger control units ("PCUs") 230_1-230_n, and possibly peripheral circuitry 240_1-240_n supporting a modem connection (e.g., RG11 connector) or headphone connector . . ." (Col. 3, ll. 55-61).

There is however, no suggestion or discussion of connecting a portable electronic device such as a laptop computer to the SEU of Williams or how such a connection could be made. There is no suggestion that a portable electronic device would work in connection with the SEU. Further, there is no suggestion of providing network connectivity to a portable electronic device through the SEU of Williams. The Francis reference also fails to disclose these limitations. It is respectfully submitted that this reference has been applied against the claims of the present application using impermissible hindsight. For these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the

rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Williams in view of Francis is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12/3/2002

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ATTACHMENT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a marked up version of each amended claim in which underlines indicates insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

1. (Amended) A connector module adapted to be integrated into an interior compartment of a mobile platform adjacent a seat of the mobile platform for connecting a portable electronic device to a power source and a network located on-board the mobile platform, the connector module comprising:

a housing adapted to be disposed adjacent to a portion of a seat of the mobile platform;

a networking port disposed in the housing adapted to couple the portable electronic device to the network for providing network connectivity of the portable electronic device wherein the network is on-board the mobile platform; and

a power port disposed in the housing adapted to receive a DC power cable of the portable electronic device for providing power to the portable electronic device.

5. (Amended) The connector module of claim 1 wherein the power port comprises [an ARINC 626] a multi-pin power connector.

8. (Amended) A connector module disposed on [within] a seat of a mobile platform [an aircraft] for providing a plurality of connectivity options for connecting a portable electronic device to a power source and network located on-board the mobile platform [aircraft], the connector module comprising:

a housing adapted to be coupled to a seat within the aircraft to as to be readily accessible by an occupant of said seat while said occupant is seated in said seat;

a first networking port comprising a Universal Serial Bus disposed in the housing adapted to couple the portable electronic device to the network for providing network connectivity of the portable electronic device, wherein the network is located on-board the aircraft;

a second networking port comprising an RJ-45 [RJ - 45] port disposed in the housing adapted to couple the portable electronic device to the network for providing network connectivity of the portable electronic device; and

a power port disposed in the housing adapted to receive a DC power cable of the portable electronic device for providing power to the portable electronic device.

10. (Amended) A connector module for use by an occupant in [disposed within] a seat of an aircraft for providing for connecting a portable electronic device to a power source and a network located on-board the aircraft, the connector module comprising:

a housing coupled to a seat of the aircraft that is accessible by the occupant of the seat while the occupant is seated in the seat;

a first networking port comprising a Universal Serial Bus disposed in the housing adapted to couple the portable electronic device to the network for providing network connectivity of the portable electronic device wherein the network comprises an on-board network;

a second networking port comprising an RJ-45 [RJ - 45] port disposed in the housing adapted to couple the portable electronic device to the network for providing network connectivity of the portable electronic device; and

a power port disposed in the housing adapted to receive a DC power cable of the portable electronic device for providing power to the portable electronic device.